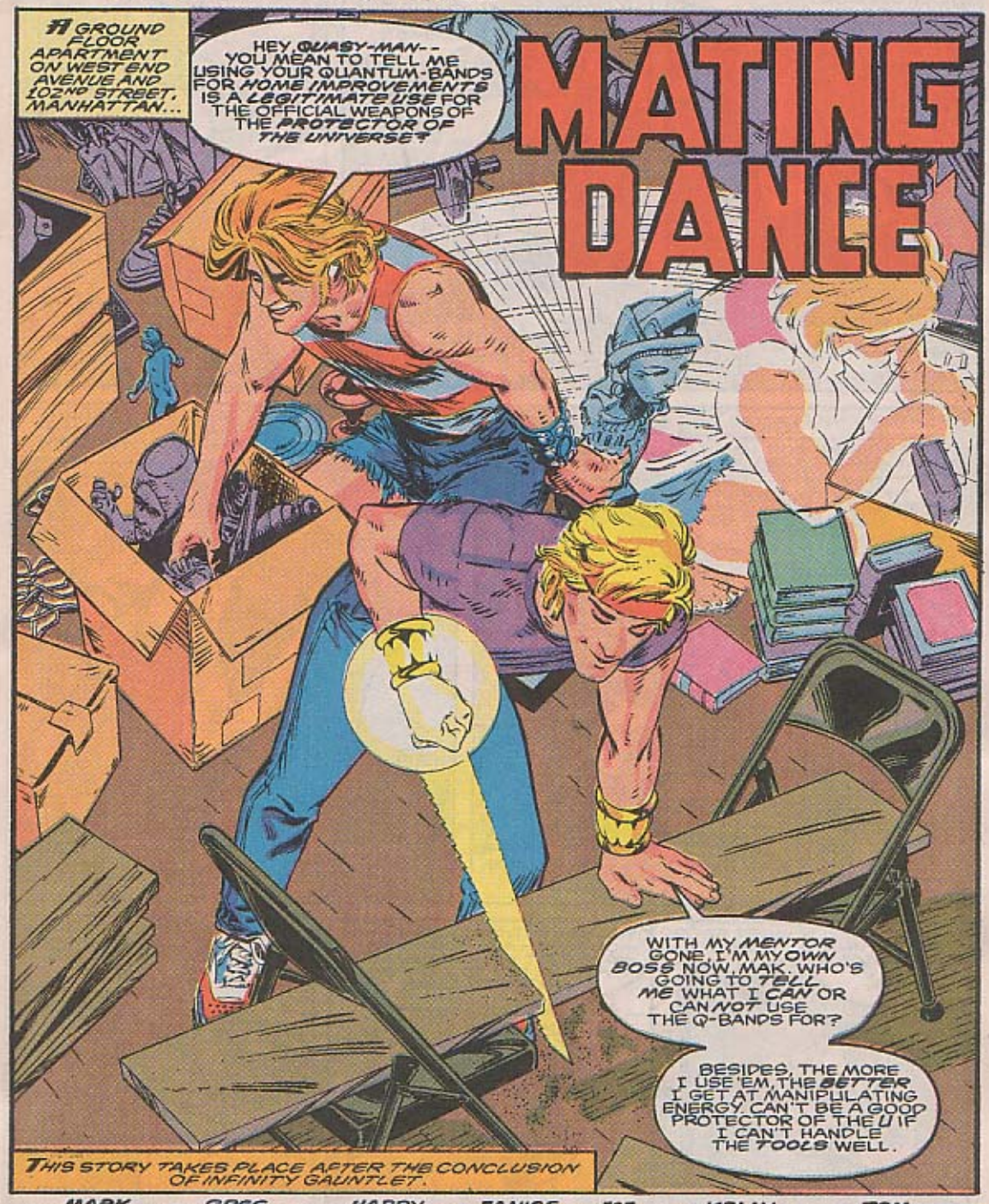
MARVEL COMICS
THE COSMIC AVENGER!
QUASAR
™
© 1991 MARVEL ENT GROUP INC
$1.00 US
$1.25 CAN
28
NOV
UK 65p
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE
AUTHORITY
GULP!
WHO WILL BE HER™ MATE?
50 YEARS OF CAPTAIN AMERICA
1941 – 1991
DECISIONS, DECISIONS, DECISIONS...

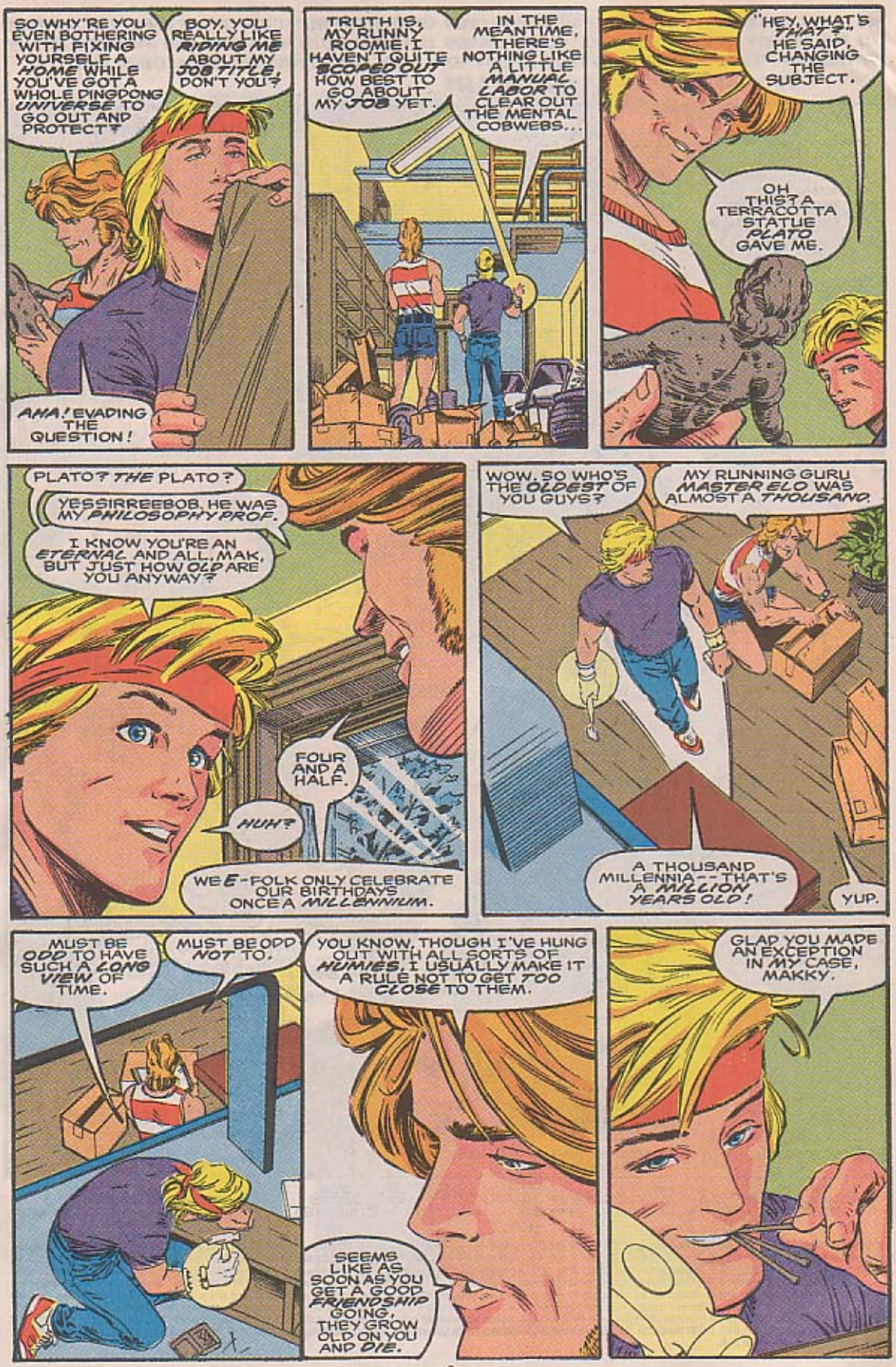
WENDELL VAUGHN . . . THE FIRST EARTH MAN EVER APPOINTED PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE. BONDED TO THE ENERGY-TRANSFORMING QUANTUM-BANDS THAT ARE BOTH WEAPONS AND SYMBOLS OF HIS STATION. HE FIGHTS AN ONGOING BATTLE TO DEFEND ALL LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE FROM COSMIC EVIL!

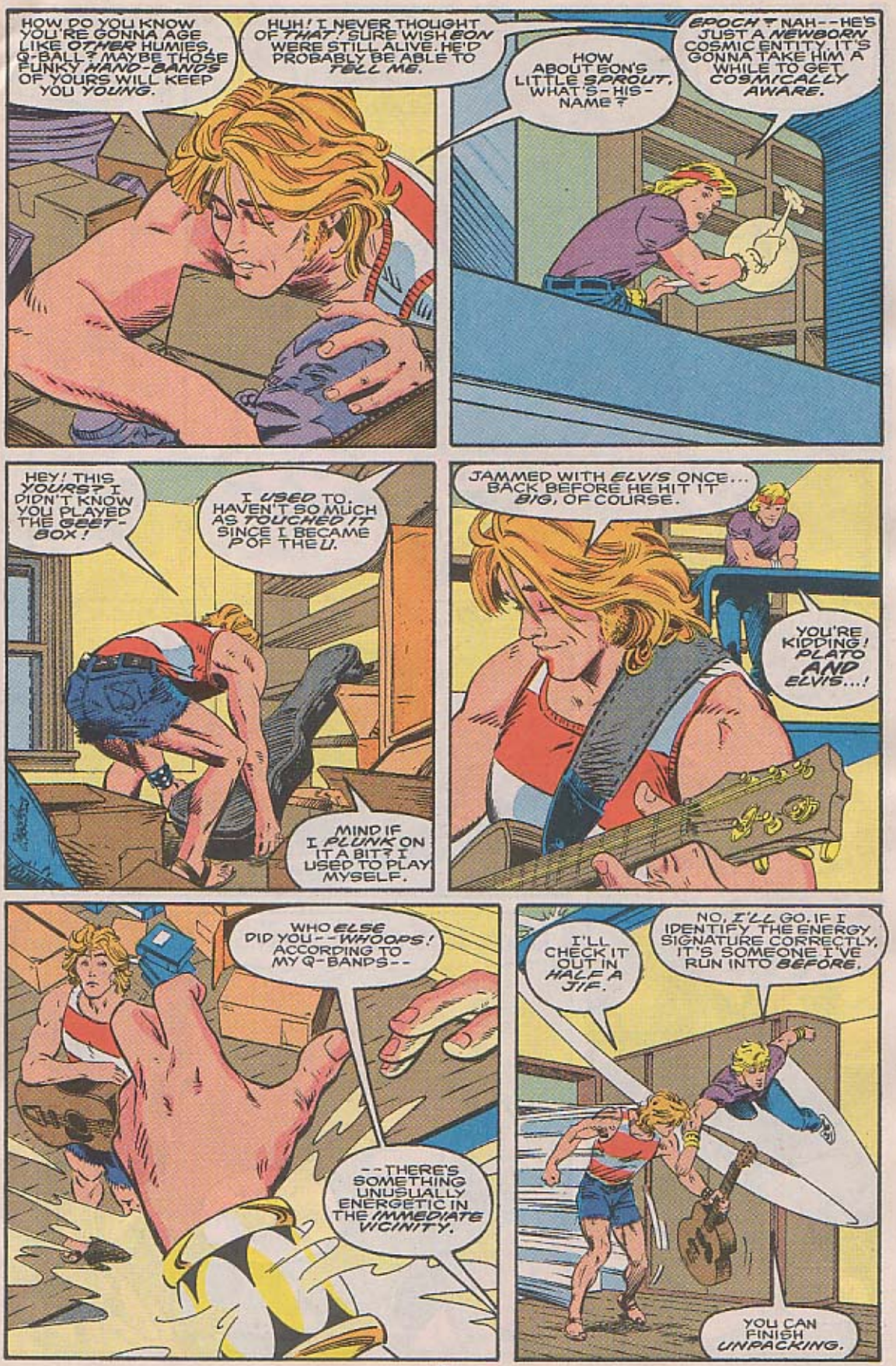
STAN LEE PRESENTS . . . QUASAR!

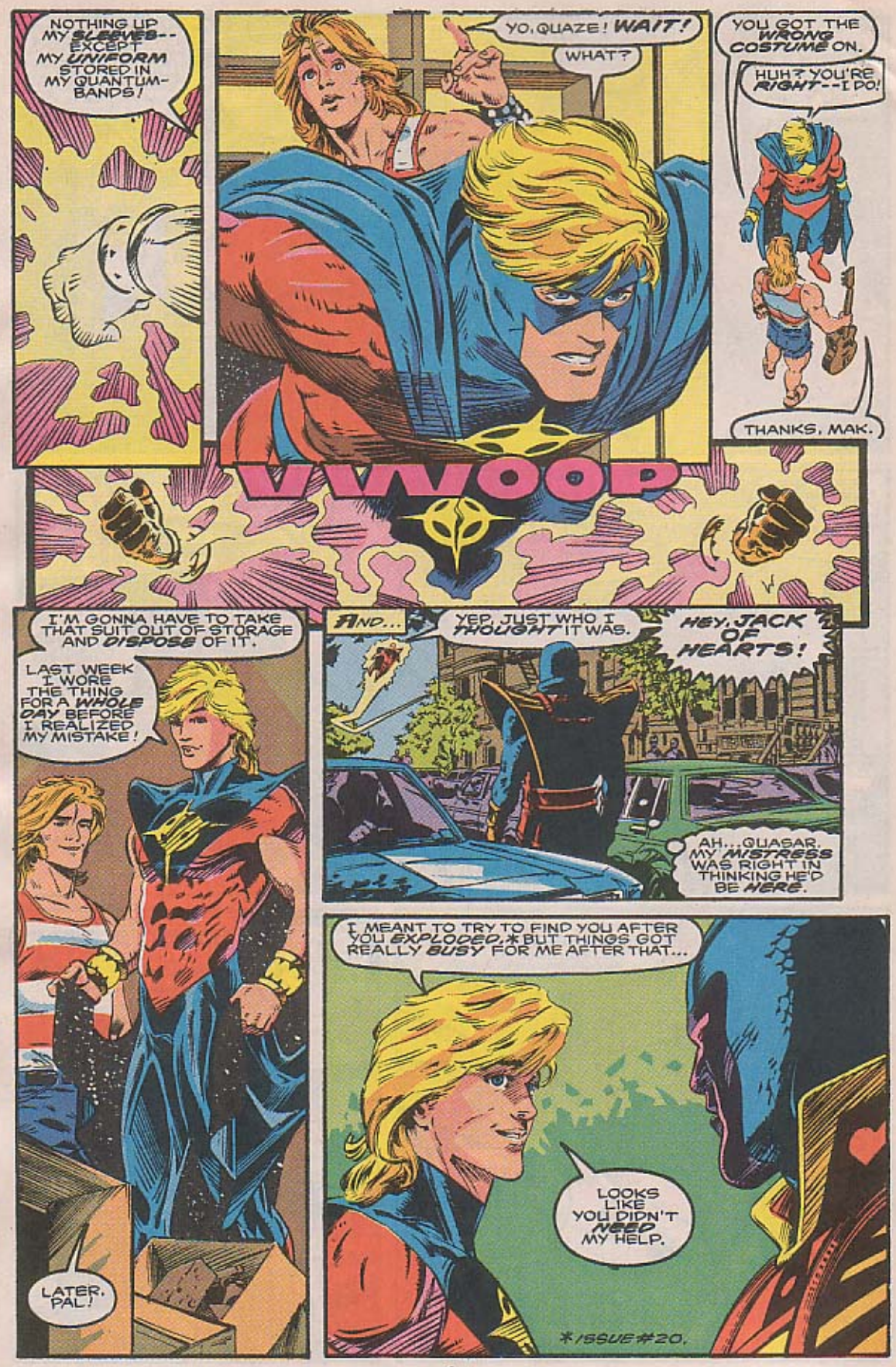

A GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT ON WEST END AVENUE AND 102ND STREET, MANHATTAN...
HEY, QUASY-MAN-- YOU MEAN TO TELL ME USING YOUR QUANTUM-BANDS FOR HOME IMPROVEMENTS IS A LEGITIMATE USE FOR THE OFFICIAL WEAPONS OF THE PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE?
MATING DANCE
WITH MY MENTOR GONE, I'M MY OWN BOSS NOW, MAK. WHO'S GOING TO TELL ME WHAT I CAN OR CAN NOT USE THE Q-BANDS FOR?
BESIDES, THE MORE I USE 'EM, THE BETTER I GET AT MANIPULATING ENERGY. CAN'T BE A GOOD PROTECTOR OF THE U IF I CAN'T HANDLE THE TOOLS WELL.
THIS STORY TAKES PLACE AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF INFINITY GAUNTLET.

MARK GRUENWALD WRITER • GREG CAPULLO PENCILER • HARRY CANDELARIO INKER • JANICE CHIANG LETTERER • JOE ROSAS COLORIST • KELLY CORVESE EDITOR • TOM DeFALCO EDITOR IN CHIEF

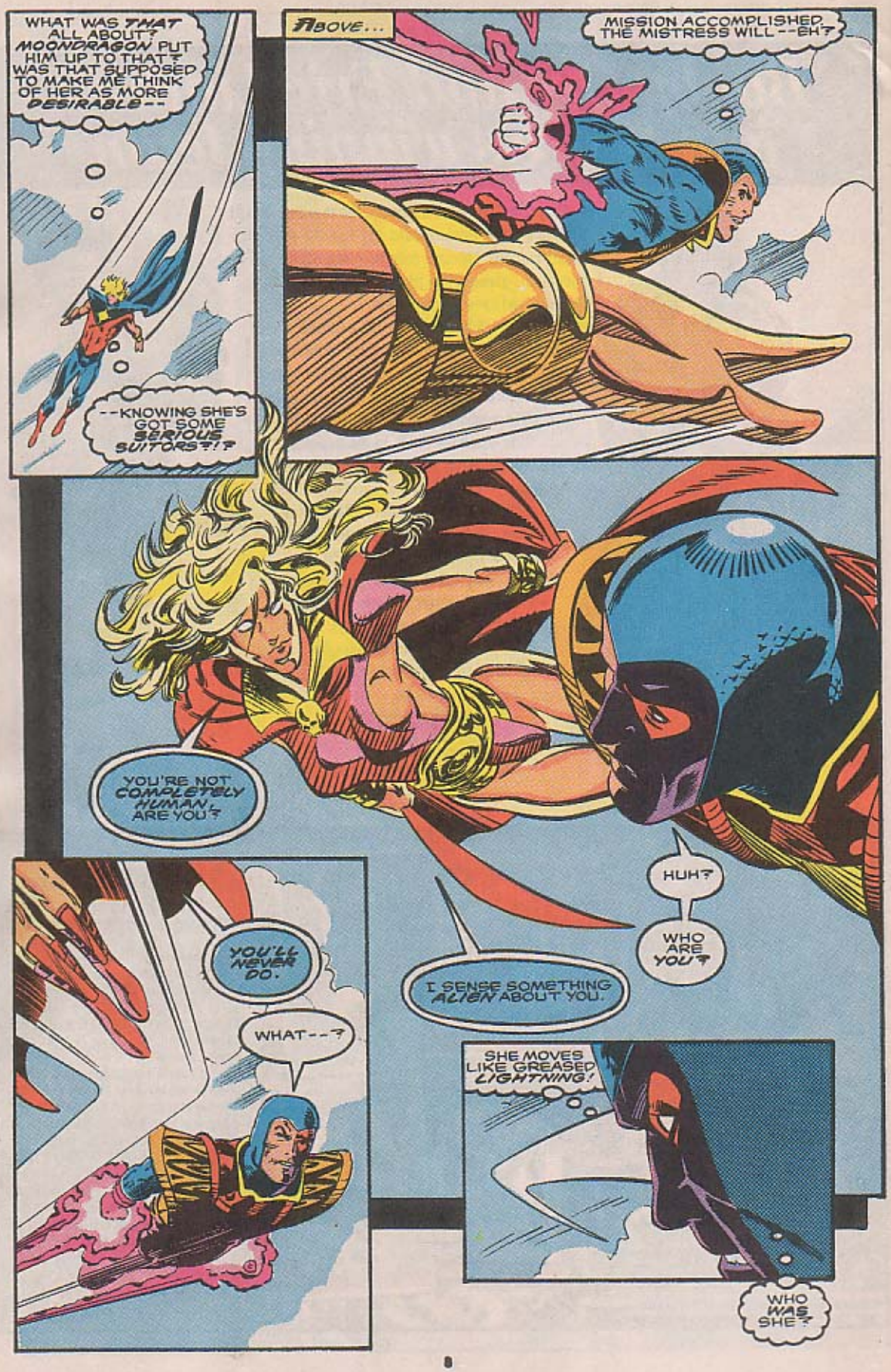
QUASAR™ Vol. 1, No. 28, November, 1991 Issue. (ISSN #1051-6832) Published by MARVEL COMICS: Terry Stewart, President; Stan Lee, Publisher; Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. **SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES.** Published monthly. Copyright © 1991 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price $1.00 per copy in the U.S. and $1.25 in Canada. Subscription rate for 12 issues: U.S. $12.00; foreign $24.00; and Canadian subscribers must add $8.00 for postage and GST. GST #R127032852. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the condition that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. QUASAR (including all prominent characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof) is a trademark of the MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. **POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO QUASAR, c/o MARVEL COMICS, 9TH FLOOR, 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Printed in the U.S.A.**


SO WHY'RE YOU EVEN BOTHERING WITH FIXING YOURSELF A HOME WHILE YOU'VE GOT A WHOLE DINGDONG UNIVERSE TO GO OUT AND PROTECT?
BOY, YOU REALLY LIKE RIDING ME ABOUT MY JOB TITLE, DON'T YOU?
AHA! EVADING THE QUESTION!
TRUTH IS, MY RUNNY ROOMIE, I HAVEN'T QUITE SCOPED OUT HOW BEST TO GO ABOUT MY JOB YET.
IN THE MEANTIME, THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A LITTLE MANUAL LABOR TO CLEAR OUT THE MENTAL COBWEBS...
"HEY, WHAT'S THAT?" HE SAID, CHANGING THE SUBJECT.
OH THIS? A TERRACOTTA STATUE PLATO GAVE ME.
PLATO? THE PLATO?
YESSIRREEBOB. HE WAS MY PHILOSOPHY PROF.
I KNOW YOU'RE AN ETERNAL AND ALL, MAK, BUT JUST HOW OLD ARE YOU ANYWAY?
FOUR AND A HALF.
HUH?
WE E-FOLK ONLY CELEBRATE OUR BIRTHDAYS ONCE A MILLENNIUM.
WOW. SO WHO'S THE OLDEST OF YOU GUYS?
MY RUNNING GURU MASTER ELO WAS ALMOST A THOUSAND.
A THOUSAND MILLENNIA -- THAT'S A MILLION YEARS OLD!
YUP.
MUST BE ODD TO HAVE SUCH A LONG VIEW OF TIME.
MUST BE ODD NOT TO.
YOU KNOW, THOUGH I'VE HUNG OUT WITH ALL SORTS OF HUMIES, I USUALLY MAKE IT A RULE NOT TO GET TOO CLOSE TO THEM.
SEEMS LIKE AS SOON AS YOU GET A GOOD FRIENDSHIP GOING, THEY GROW OLD ON YOU AND DIE.
GLAD YOU MADE AN EXCEPTION IN MY CASE, MAKKY.


HOW DO YOU KNOW YOU'RE GONNA AGE LIKE OTHER HUMIES, Q-BALL? MAYBE THOSE FUNKY HAND-BANDS OF YOURS WILL KEEP YOU YOUNG.
HUH! I NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT! SURE WISH EON WERE STILL ALIVE. HE'D PROBABLY BE ABLE TO TELL ME.
HOW ABOUT EON'S LITTLE SPROUT, WHAT'S-HIS-NAME?
EPOCH? NAH--HE'S JUST A NEWBORN COSMIC ENTITY. IT'S GONNA TAKE HIM A WHILE TO GET COSMICALLY AWARE.
HEY! THIS YOURS? I DIDN'T KNOW YOU PLAYED THE GEET-BOX!
I USED TO. HAVEN'T SO MUCH AS TOUCHED IT SINCE I BECAME POF THE U.
MIND IF I PLUNK ON IT A BIT? I USED TO PLAY MYSELF.
JAMMED WITH ELVIS ONCE... BACK BEFORE HE HIT IT BIG, OF COURSE.
YOU'RE KIDDING! PLATO AND ELVIS...!
WHO ELSE DID YOU--WHOOPS! ACCORDING TO MY Q-BANDS--
--THERE'S SOMETHING UNUSUALLY ENERGETIC IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY.
I'LL CHECK IT OUT IN HALF A JIF.
NO, I'LL GO. IF I IDENTIFY THE ENERGY SIGNATURE CORRECTLY, IT'S SOMEONE I'VE RUN INTO BEFORE.
YOU CAN FINISH UNPACKING.


NOTHING UP MY SLEEVES--EXCEPT MY UNIFORM STORED IN MY QUANTUM-BANDS!
YO, QUAZE! WAIT!
WHAT?
YOU GOT THE WRONG COSTUME ON.
HUH? YOU'RE RIGHT--I DO!
THANKS, MAK.
VWOOP
I'M GONNA HAVE TO TAKE THAT SUIT OUT OF STORAGE AND DISPOSE OF IT.
LAST WEEK I WORE THE THING FOR A WHOLE DAY BEFORE I REALIZED MY MISTAKE!
LATER, PAL!
AND...
YEP, JUST WHO I THOUGHT IT WAS.
HEY, JACK OF HEARTS!
AH...QUASAR, MY MISTRESS WAS RIGHT IN THINKING HE'D BE HERE.
I MEANT TO TRY TO FIND YOU AFTER YOU EXPLODED,* BUT THINGS GOT REALLY BUSY FOR ME AFTER THAT...
LOOKS LIKE YOU DIDN'T NEED MY HELP.
*ISSUE #20.

I'M NOT HERE TO HASSLE YOU ABOUT THAT.
GOOD. I WAS HALF EXPECTING A MEANINGLESS SLUGFEST, TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH.
I CAME HERE TO ASK YOU TO RENOUNCE WHATEVER ROMANTIC INCLINATIONS YOU HAVE TOWARD MOON-DRAGON.
WHAT? I HAVE NO--
WHERE DID YOU GET--?
LOOK, JACK, I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE YOU GET YOUR INFORMATION, BUT I ASSURE YOU I HAVE NO ROMANTIC IDEAS ABOUT MOONDRAGON WHATSOEVER.
SHE'S AN ACQUAINTANCE OF MINE AND THAT'S IT.
THE LAST TIME SHE AND I SPOKE, SHE HAD SOME FUNNY IDEAS ABOUT ME, BUT I PROMISE YOU, I DON'T SHARE THEM.
IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN HER, SHE'S ALL YOURS. I WON'T GO NEAR HER. OKAY?
I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT A BIG COSMIC MUCKAMUCK LIKE YOURSELF WOULD GO FOR THE MOST CELESTIAL WOMAN ALIVE.
QUALIFICATIONS HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH FEELINGS, JACK.
YOU SAY YOU WILL STAY AWAY FROM HER. I HAVE NO REASON NOT TO ACCEPT YOUR WORD.
WHOOOSH


WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT? MOONDRAGON PUT HIM UP TO THAT? WAS THAT SUPPOSED TO MAKE ME THINK OF HER AS MORE DESIRABLE--
--KNOWING SHE'S GOT SOME SERIOUS SUITORS?!?
ABOVE...
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED. THE MISTRESS WILL--EH?
YOU'RE NOT COMPLETELY HUMAN, ARE YOU?
HUH?
WHO ARE YOU?
I SENSE SOMETHING ALIEN ABOUT YOU.
YOU'LL NEVER DO.
WHAT--?
SHE MOVES LIKE GREASED LIGHTNING!
WHO WAS SHE?

PERHAPS MY MISTRESS WILL KNOW. HER KNOWLEDGE IS ONLY SURPASSED BY HER BEAUTY.

MISTRESS, I DELIVERED THE--

I KNOW.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF THE WOMAN I MET WHO--

SHE CALLS HERSELF HER.

SHE IS A WOMAN GROWN IN A LABORATORY AND BESTOWED WITH VAST PERSONAL ENERGY.

WHAT DID SHE WANT OF ME? I FELT LIKE SHE WAS--

I'M UNCERTAIN. WHEN WE MET SEVERAL YEARS AGO, * SHE WAS SEARCHING FOR HER IDEAL MATE...

...EVEN AS I AM NOW...

HMPH.! I FEAR WE WILL SOON BE WORKING AT CROSS-PURPOSES, SHE AND I.

*BACK IN MARVEL TWO IN ONE #61-63.

BELOW...

WHAT--? ANOTHER POWERFUL LIFE FORM...?

WHOEVER IT WAS JUST FLEW OUT OF THE VICINITY! GUESS I COULD CHECK IT OUT... BUT LET ME TOUCH BASE WITH MAKKARI FIRST.

WHOA.! IT'S ALL DONE!?! I'VE BARELY BEEN GONE FIVE MINUTES!

YOU MUST'VE BEEN HOLDING BACK BEFORE!

WELL...

...I WANTED TO SAVE SOME OF THE FUN FOR YOU, BUT I KINDA GOT CARRIED AWAY.

LOOKS... GREAT. CAN'T COMPLAIN.

SAY, I'VE GOT TO-- NOW WHAT?

HO, YOUNG QUASAR!

HERCULES?!?

I CRAVE A BOON OF YOU, AVENGER!

AND AFTER A BRIEF EXPLANATION...

SORRY, MAK. GOTTA RUN AGAIN. AVENGERS BUSINESS. *

BE BACK AS SOON AS I CAN.

* TO SEE WHERE QUASAR'S RUNNING OFF TO, CHECK OUT THOR #437, NOW ON SALE!

MEANWHILE...

TO THINK I'VE WAITED ALL THIS TIME TO UNDERTAKE THE FULFILLMENT OF MY DESTINY! WHAT A FOOL I'VE BEEN...!

FOR YEARS I BELIEVED THAT MY PREDECESSOR, THE MAN ONCE KNOWN AS HIM, WAS MY PERFECT MATE, THE ONE I WAS BORN TO BREED WITH IN ORDER TO CREATE A GLORIOUS NEW RACE OF HUMAN BEING

BUT WHEN AT LONG LAST I MET HIM, HE REJECTED ME! *

MY FIRST IMPULSE WAS TO FORCE HIM TO HELP ME REALIZE MY DESTINY... BUT I DIDN'T.

IT WASN'T UNTIL I MEDITATED UPON MY SITUATION FOR SOME TIME BEFORE I REALIZED THE DREADFUL DELUSION I WAS LABORING UNDER ALL ALONG.

HIS GENETIC MATERIAL IS IDENTICAL TO MINE-- WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE SEX-DETERMINING CHROMOSOME! TO COMBINE OUR GENES WOULD BE REDUNDANT--OF NO GENETIC ADVANTAGE WHATSOEVER!

* LAST ISSUE.

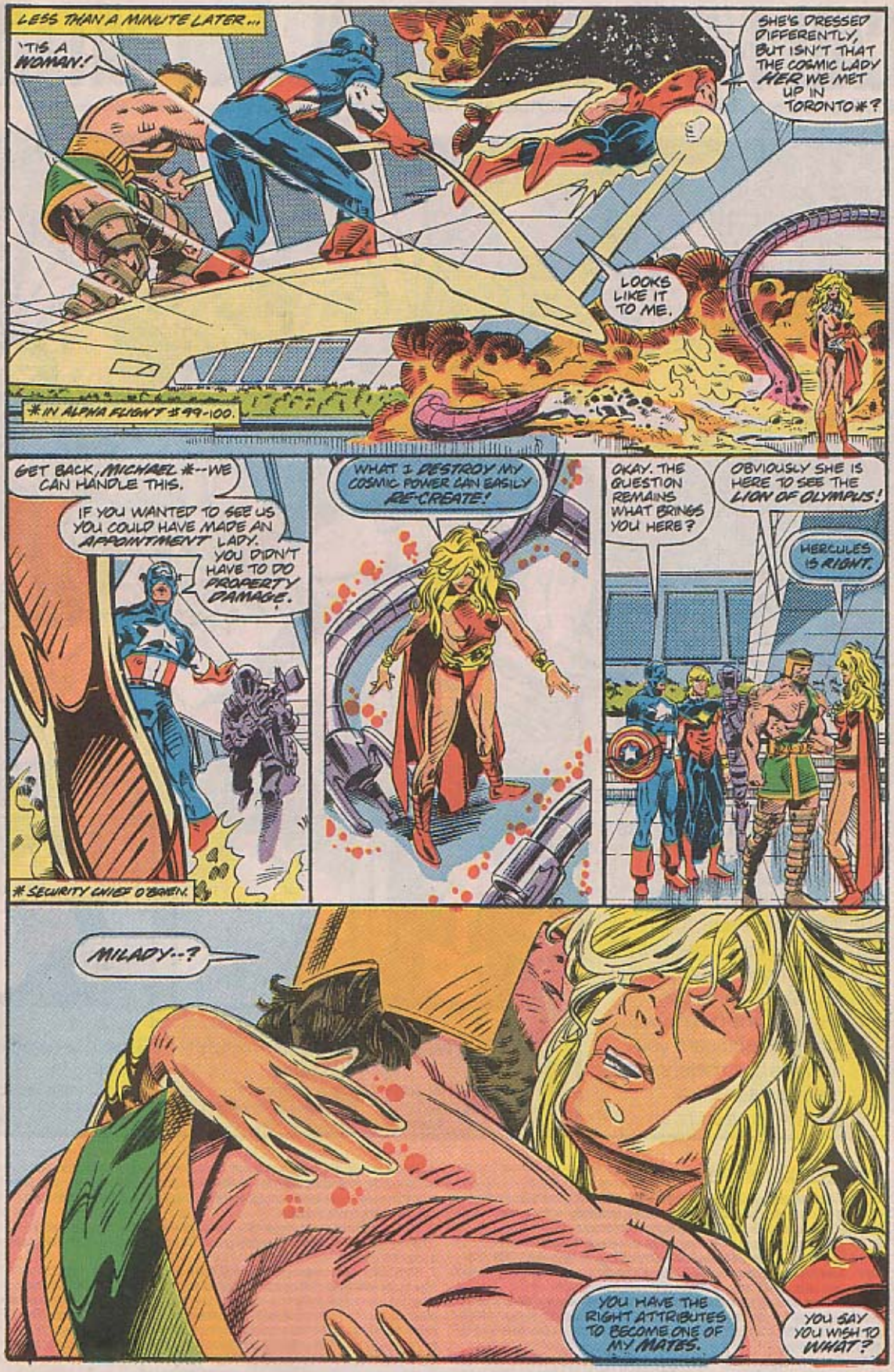
CONSEQUENTLY I HAVE EMBARKED UPON MY QUEST FOR BEINGS OF POWER WHOSE GENETIC MATERIAL WOULD COMPLEMENT MY OWN!
THERE IS A GREAT CONCENTRATION OF SUCH POWER IN THIS OUT-OF-THE-WAY DWELLING.
WHO LIVES HERE, I WONDER?
AS IF IN ANSWER...
CAREFUL, X-MEN--
--SECURITY SENSORS INDICATE A BEING OF NEAR-PHOENIX LEVEL POWER!
IT'S A WOMAN!
IDENTIFY YERSELF, TOOTS.
I AM HER.
AND YOU ARE MUTANTS.
YOUR GENETIC MATERIAL IS TOO UNSTABLE.
YOU ARE NOT WHAT I'M LOOKING FOR.
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?

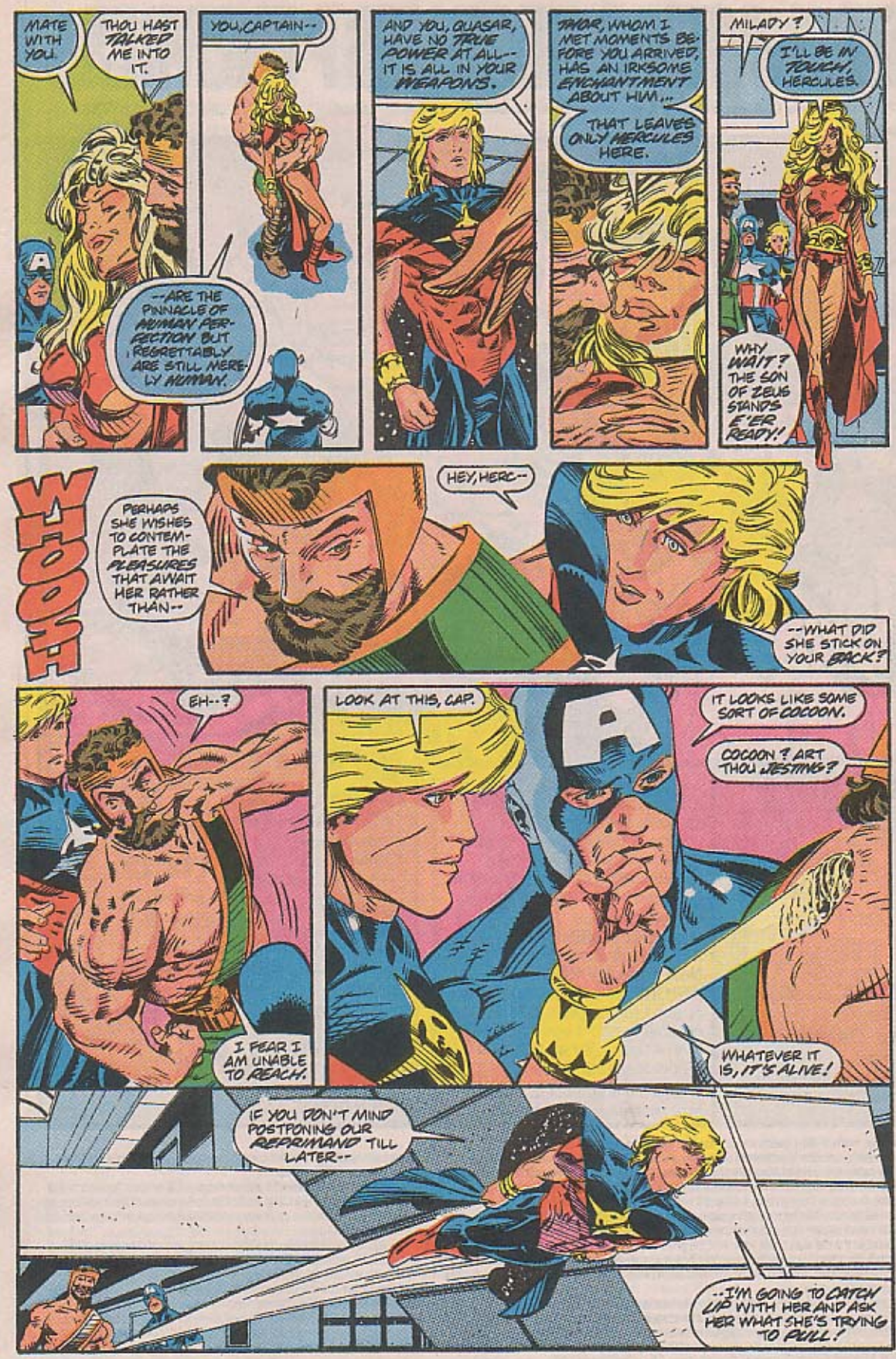
EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE...
WISH I COULD HELP MY MISTRESS. BUT HER MIND GOES WHERE NONE CAN FOLLOW.
I'VE FOUND HER. SHE IS ON A QUEST FOR A NEW MATE.
SHE HAD BETTER STAY AWAY FROM QUASAR! HE IS MY CONQUEST! I SHALL NOT BE DENIED HIM!
SHE MAY BE MY PHYSICAL SUPERIOR, BUT IF SHE DARES TO COME BETWEEN MY INTENDED AND ME--
--I'LL MAKE HER PAY!
THE NEXT DAY...
ANOTHER POTENTIAL MATE NEARBY!
IN HERE.
SIMON BABY... DIDN'T I TELL YOU IT WAS ALL BUT IN THE BAG? WHY DO YOU THINK I MAKE THE BIG BUCKS?
YOU FEEL A DRAFT IN HERE?
HUH?!?
WHEEOO! FRIEND OF YOURS?
NEVER SAW HER BEFORE IN MY LIFE.
IF THIS IS ANOTHER OF YOUR PUBLICITY STUNTS, NEAL -- I JUST HOPE YOUR BLUE CROSS IS PAID UP!
MIND REPLACING THAT WINDOW, LADY?
SO HOW DOES IT LOOK, NEAL? DO I HAVE THE PART OR NOT?

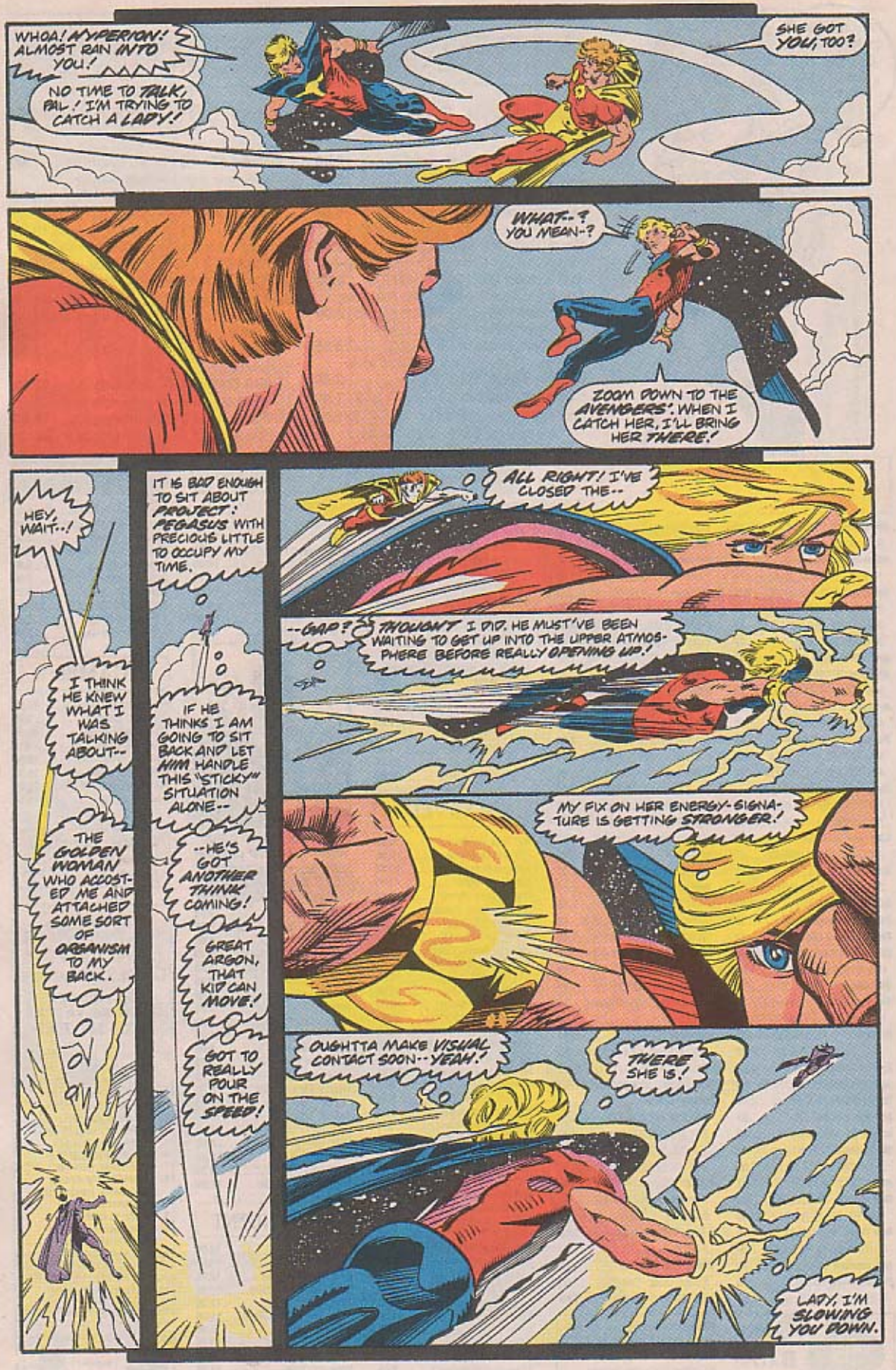
IF YOU WISH.
IT SERVED ITS PURPOSE. TO BRING YOU CLOSE ENOUGH--
--TO DO THIS.
MMMPH.!
WH--? WHAT WAS THAT FOR?
CONGRATULATIONS. YOUR GENETIC PHENOTYPE IS ACCEPTABLE TO ME.
I'VE CHOSEN YOU TO BE ONE OF MY MATES.
WHOOSH
WAIT!
SO WHAT'S THE SCAM? WHAT DID SHE WANT?
I DON'T KNOW! JUST TO KISS ME, I GUESS.
SUPER HERO GROUPIE. IT WAS INEVITABLE.

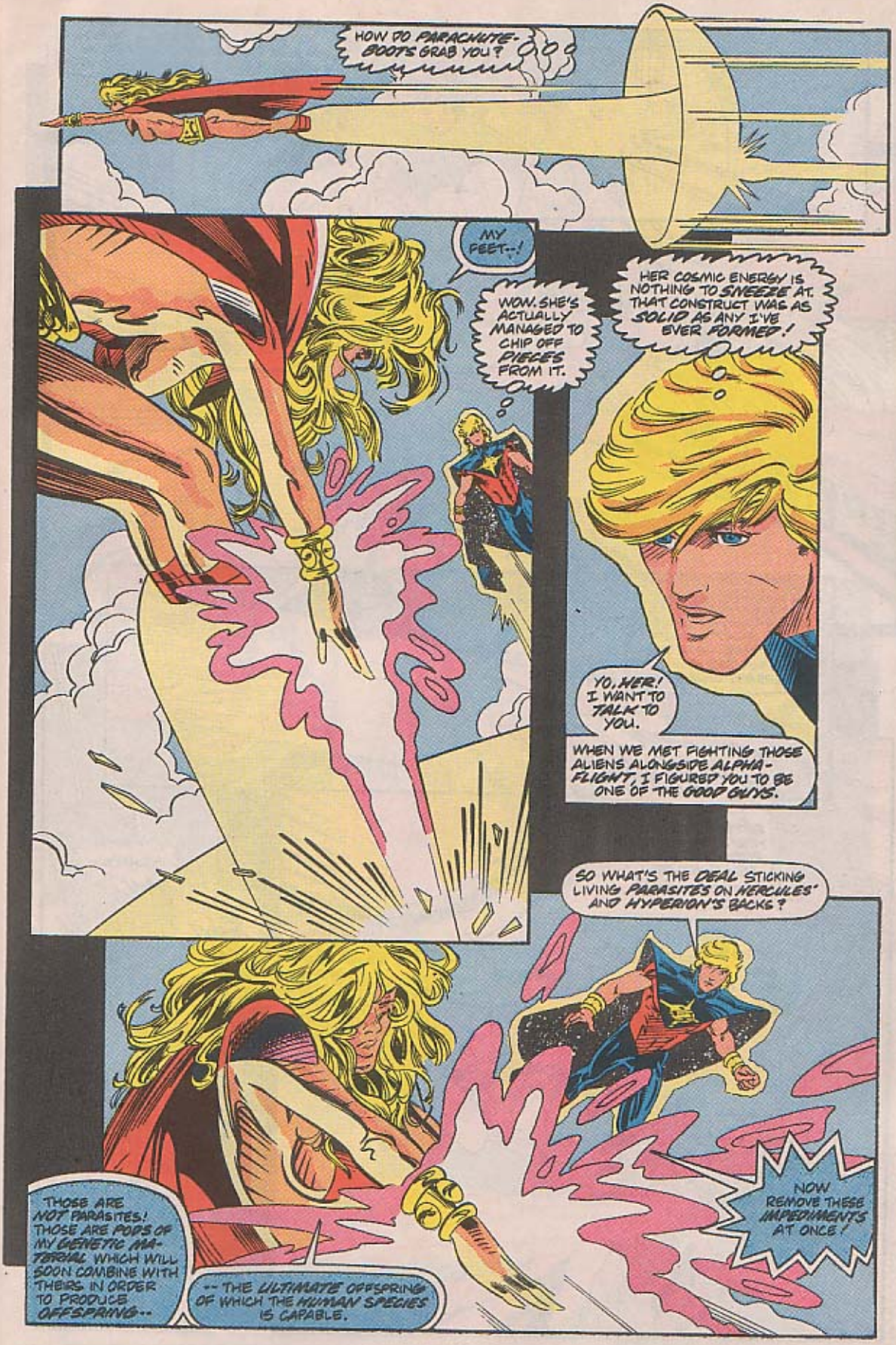
ALMOST TWENTY-FOUR HOURS SPENT SEEKING OUT SCREENING POTENTIAL MATES AND I AM ALMOST THROUGH.
I HAD NO IDEA THAT THERE WOULD BE SO MANY SUPER-HUMAN MEN TO INTERVIEW...
"SOME WERE DISQUALIFIED BECAUSE THEIR EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL GENES WOULD NOT COMBINE WELL WITH MY OWN...
"SOME WERE INCOMPATIBLE WITH ME BECAUSE THEIR POWER LAY OUTSIDE THE ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM--"MAGIC," I BELIEVE ONE OF THEM CALLED IT.
"SCORES WERE REJECTED BECAUSE THEY WERE MUTANTS...
"OTHERS SIMPLY PROVED TO BE TOO PHYSICALLY IMPERFECT TO SERIOUSLY CONSIDER...
"WHILE SOME HAD INCOMPATABLE METABOLISMS OR INSUFFICIENT PHYSICAL POWER...
"STILL OTHERS WERE BIZARRE HYBRIDS OR SUFFERED FROM CHROMOSOME DAMAGE...
STILL, I HAVE IDENTIFIED AND TAGGED THREE PROMISING CANDIDATES SO FAR...
...AND I'VE SAVED SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT POSSIBILITIES TO SCREEN FOR LAST.
SURELY AMONG THEM, MY PRIME MATE WILL REVEAL HIMSELF.

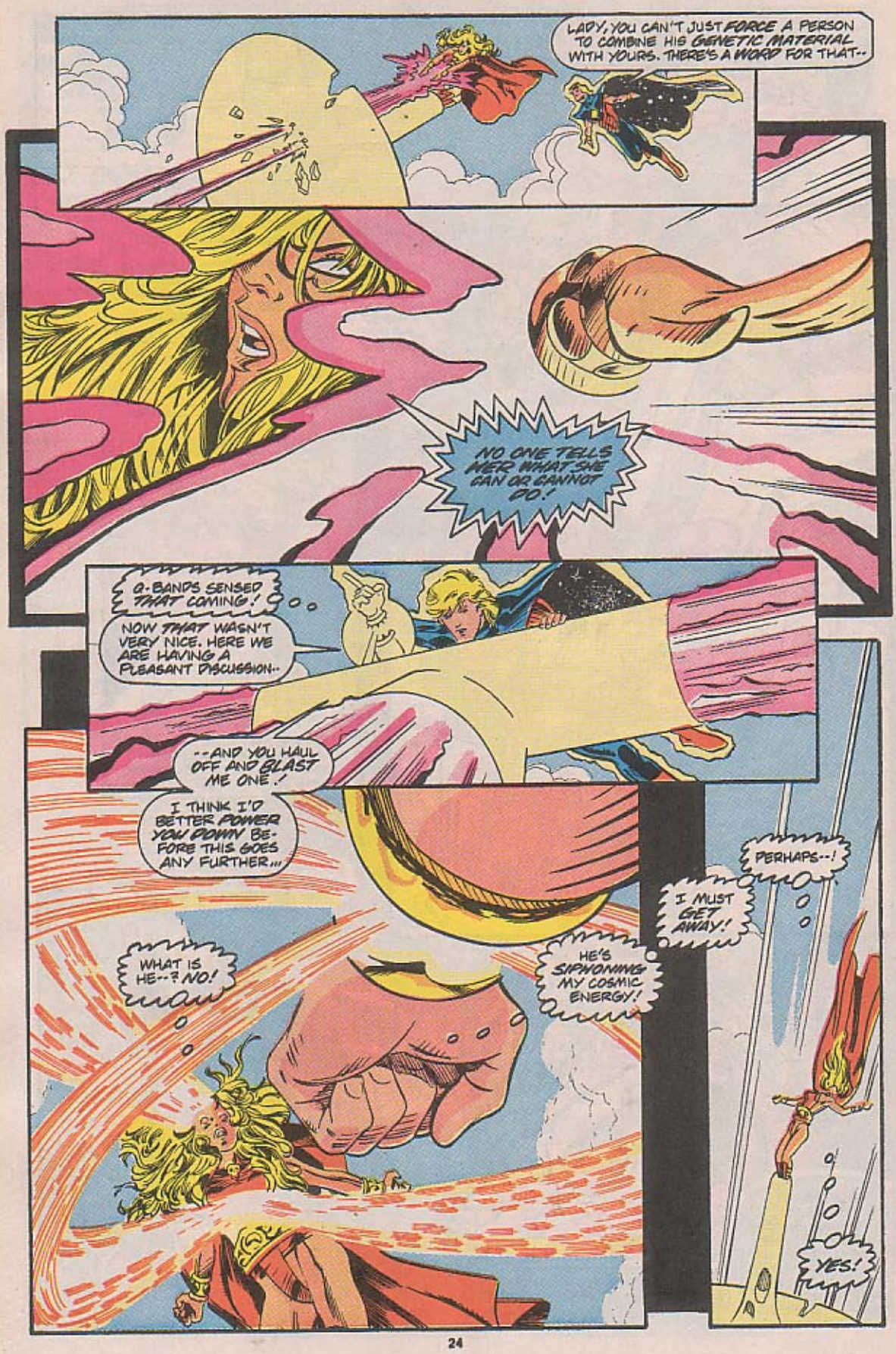
AVENGERS HEADQUARTERS, LATER THAT DAY...
WHY SO DOUR, YOUNG QUASAR?
'TIS CAPTAIN AMERICA WE BE SUMMONED TO SEE, NOT THE LORD OF DEATH!
I'D RATHER BE YELLED AT BY THE LORD OF--
HOW'D IT GO, THOR?
WELL... I WASN'T KICKED OFF THE TEAM.
AFTER YOU...
GEE, THANKS.
HAVE A SEAT.
I HATE HAVING TO PLAY DISCIPLINARIAN, GUYS, BUT WHAT'S ALL THIS ABOUT YOU TWO GETTING INTO A BRAWL WITH THOR...?
AHEM. WELL YOU SEE...
CAPTAIN, THE BLAME IS TOTALLY THE PRINCE OF POWER'S! I TRICKED YOUNG QUASAR HERE INTO HELPING ME TRAIN THE NEW THOR IN THE WAYS OF COMBAT.*
* SEE THOR #437, STILL ON SALE.
IF THERE BE NEED TO CENSURE ANYONE, I INSIST THAT--
BRRRRRNT
INTRUDER ON THE PREMISES! THIS TALK CAN WAIT!
ALLOW ME TO GET US THERE PRONTO!
GO AHEAD, SON!

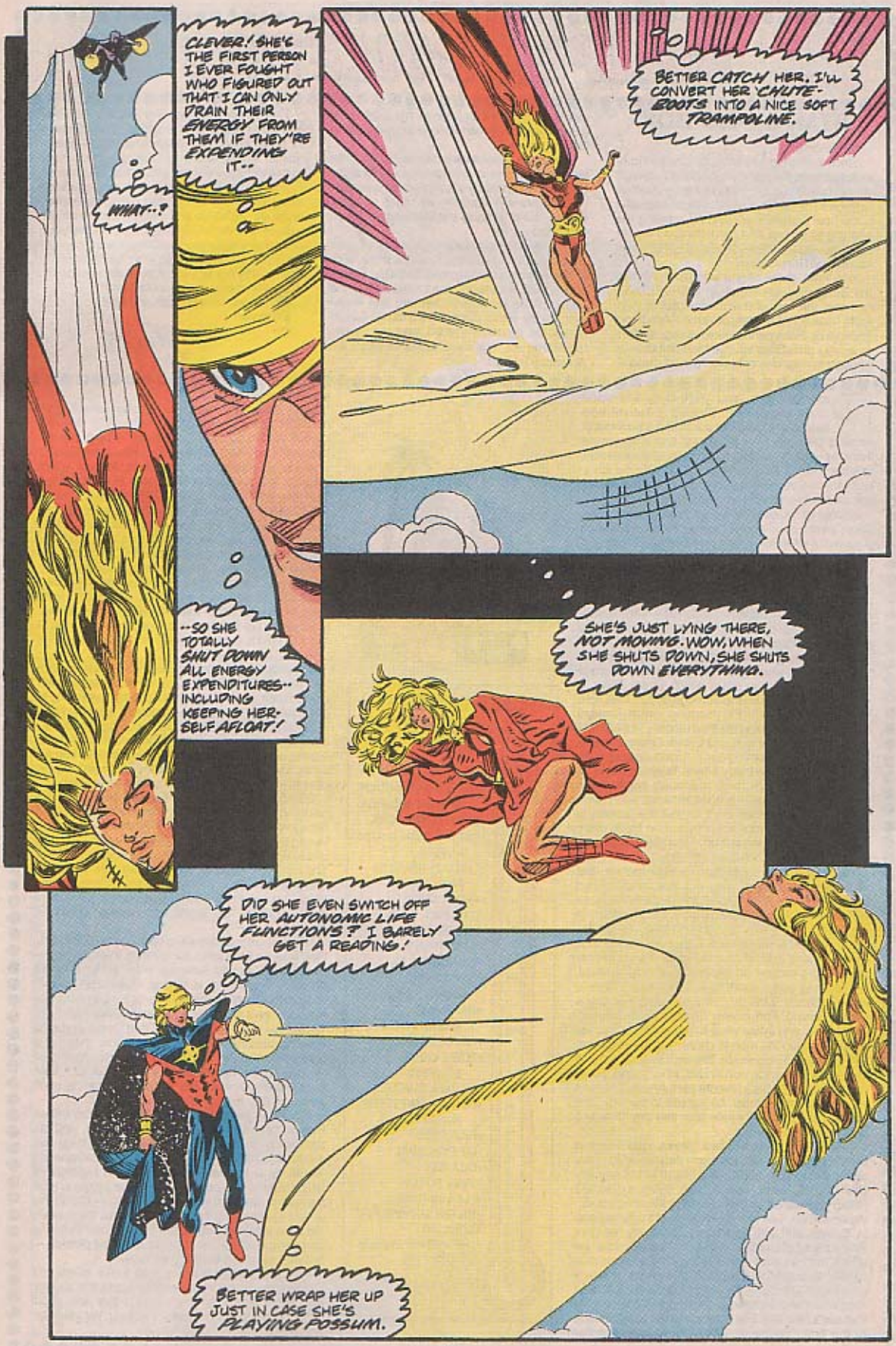

LESS THAN A MINUTE LATER...
'TIS A WOMAN!
SHE'S DRESSED DIFFERENTLY, BUT ISN'T THAT THE COSMIC LADY HER WE MET UP IN TORONTO*?
LOOKS LIKE IT TO ME.
*IN ALPHA FLIGHT #99-100.
GET BACK, MICHAEL*--WE CAN HANDLE THIS.
IF YOU WANTED TO SEE US YOU COULD HAVE MADE AN APPOINTMENT LADY. YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO DO PROPERTY DAMAGE.
*SECURITY CHIEF O'BRIEN.
WHAT I DESTROY MY COSMIC POWER CAN EASILY RE-CREATE!
OKAY. THE QUESTION REMAINS WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
OBVIOUSLY SHE IS HERE TO SEE THE LION OF OLYMPUS!
HERCULES IS RIGHT.
MILADY--?
YOU HAVE THE RIGHT ATTRIBUTES TO BECOME ONE OF MY MATES.
YOU SAY YOU WISH TO WHAT?


MATE WITH YOU.
THOU HAST TALKED ME INTO IT.
YOU, CAPTAIN--
--ARE THE PINNACLE OF HUMAN PERFECTION BUT REGRETTABLY ARE STILL MERELY HUMAN.
AND YOU, QUASAR, HAVE NO TRUE POWER AT ALL-- IT IS ALL IN YOUR WEAPONS.
THOR, WHOM I MET MOMENTS BEFORE YOU ARRIVED, HAS AN IRKSOME ENCHANTMENT ABOUT HIM...
THAT LEAVES ONLY HERCULES HERE.
MILADY?
I'LL BE IN TOUCH, HERCULES.
WHY WAIT? THE SON OF ZEUS STANDS E'ER READY!
WHOOH
PERHAPS SHE WISHES TO CONTEMPLATE THE PLEASURES THAT AWAIT HER RATHER THAN--
HEY, HERC--
--WHAT DID SHE STICK ON YOUR BACK?
EH--?
I FEAR I AM UNABLE TO REACH.
LOOK AT THIS, CAP.
IT LOOKS LIKE SOME SORT OF COCOON.
COCOON? ART THOU JESTING?
WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S ALIVE!
IF YOU DON'T MIND POSTPONING OUR REPRIMAND TILL LATER--
--I'M GOING TO CATCH UP WITH HER AND ASK HER WHAT SHE'S TRYING TO PULL!


WHOA! HYPERION! ALMOST RAN INTO YOU!
NO TIME TO TALK, PAL! I'M TRYING TO CATCH A LADY!
SHE GOT YOU, TOO?
WHAT--? YOU MEAN--?
ZOOM DOWN TO THE AVENGERS'. WHEN I CATCH HER, I'LL BRING HER THERE!
HEY, WAIT..!
I THINK HE KNEW WHAT I WAS TALKING ABOUT--
THE GOLDEN WOMAN WHO ACCOSTED ME AND ATTACHED SOME SORT OF ORGANISM TO MY BACK.
IT IS BAD ENOUGH TO SIT ABOUT PROJECT: PEGASUS WITH PRECIOUS LITTLE TO OCCUPY MY TIME.
IF HE THINKS I AM GOING TO SIT BACK AND LET HIM HANDLE THIS "STICKY" SITUATION ALONE--
--HE'S GOT ANOTHER THINK COMING!
GREAT ARGON, THAT KID CAN MOVE!
GOT TO REALLY POUR ON THE SPEED!
ALL RIGHT! I'VE CLOSED THE--
--GAP? I THOUGHT I DID. HE MUST'VE BEEN WAITING TO GET UP INTO THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE BEFORE REALLY OPENING UP!
MY FIX ON HER ENERGY-SIGNATURE IS GETTING STRONGER!
OUGHTTA MAKE VISUAL CONTACT SOON--YEAH!
THERE SHE IS!
LADY, I'M SLOWING YOU DOWN.


HOW DO PARACHUTE-BOOTS GRAB YOU?
MY FEET--!
WOW. SHE'S ACTUALLY MANAGED TO CHIP OFF PIECES FROM IT.
HER COSMIC ENERGY IS NOTHING TO SNEEZE AT. THAT CONSTRUCT WAS AS SOLID AS ANY I'VE EVER FORMED!
YO, HER! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU.
WHEN WE MET FIGHTING THOSE ALIENS ALONGSIDE ALPHA-FLIGHT, I FIGURED YOU TO BE ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS.
SO WHAT'S THE DEAL STICKING LIVING PARASITES ON HERCULES' AND HYPERION'S BACKS?
NOW REMOVE THESE IMPEDIMENTS AT ONCE!
THOSE ARE NOT PARASITES! THOSE ARE POPS OF MY GENETIC MATERIAL WHICH WILL SOON COMBINE WITH THEIRS IN ORDER TO PRODUCE OFFSPRING--
-- THE ULTIMATE OFFSPRING OF WHICH THE HUMAN SPECIES IS CAPABLE.


LADY, YOU CAN'T JUST FORCE A PERSON TO COMBINE HIS GENETIC MATERIAL WITH YOURS. THERE'S A WORD FOR THAT--
NO ONE TELLS HER WHAT SHE CAN OR CANNOT DO!
Q-BANDS SENSED THAT COMING!
NOW THAT WASN'T VERY NICE. HERE WE ARE HAVING A PLEASANT DISCUSSION--
--AND YOU HAUL OFF AND BLAST ME ONE!
I THINK I'D BETTER POWER YOU DOWN BEFORE THIS GOES ANY FURTHER...
WHAT IS HE--? NO!
HE'S SIPHONING MY COSMIC ENERGY!
I MUST GET AWAY!
PERHAPS--!
YES!


WHAT..?
CLEVER! SHE'S THE FIRST PERSON I EVER FOUGHT WHO FIGURED OUT THAT I CAN ONLY DRAIN THEIR ENERGY FROM THEM IF THEY'RE EXPENDING IT..
--SO SHE TOTALLY SHUT DOWN ALL ENERGY EXPENDITURES.. INCLUDING KEEPING HERSELF AFLOAT!
BETTER CATCH HER. I'LL CONVERT HER 'CHUTE-BOOTS INTO A NICE SOFT TRAMPOLINE.
SHE'S JUST LYING THERE, NOT MOVING. WOW, WHEN SHE SHUTS DOWN, SHE SHUTS DOWN EVERYTHING.
DID SHE EVEN SWITCH OFF HER AUTONOMIC LIFE FUNCTIONS? I BARELY GET A READING!
BETTER WRAP HER UP JUST IN CASE SHE'S PLAYING POSSUM.

WHAT IF SHE *ISN'T*? WHAT IF HER LIFE FORCE IS SO INEXTRICABLY *ATTACHED* TO HER ENERGY OUTPUT THAT I UPSET THE *BALANCE* AND PUT HER IN A *COMA*?

JACK OF HEARTS' ENERGY WAS LIKE THAT THE TIME WE TUSSLED...!

HER? ARE YOU THERE?

LET ME *OUT* OF THIS, QUASAR, OR I WILL CONSIDER YOU ONE OF MY *ENEMIES!*

HUH? WHEW.

NOT TILL WE *TALK.*

THOSE COCOONS YOU STUCK ON HYPE AND HERC--

--AND *FOUR* OTHERS.

WHAT?!? WHO? NEVER *MIND* THAT FOR NOW.

JUST TELL ME HOW THE THINGS *COME OFF.*

THEY DON'T. THEY'RE BONDED TO MY MATES WITH *COSMIC ENERGY.*

YOU MEAN THERE'S *NO WAY* UNDER THE SUN TO--

NOT WITHOUT *KILLING* THEM.

WHO? THE *COCOONS* OR THE *MATES*?

I DO NOT KNOW. I'VE NEVER *DONE* THIS BEFORE.

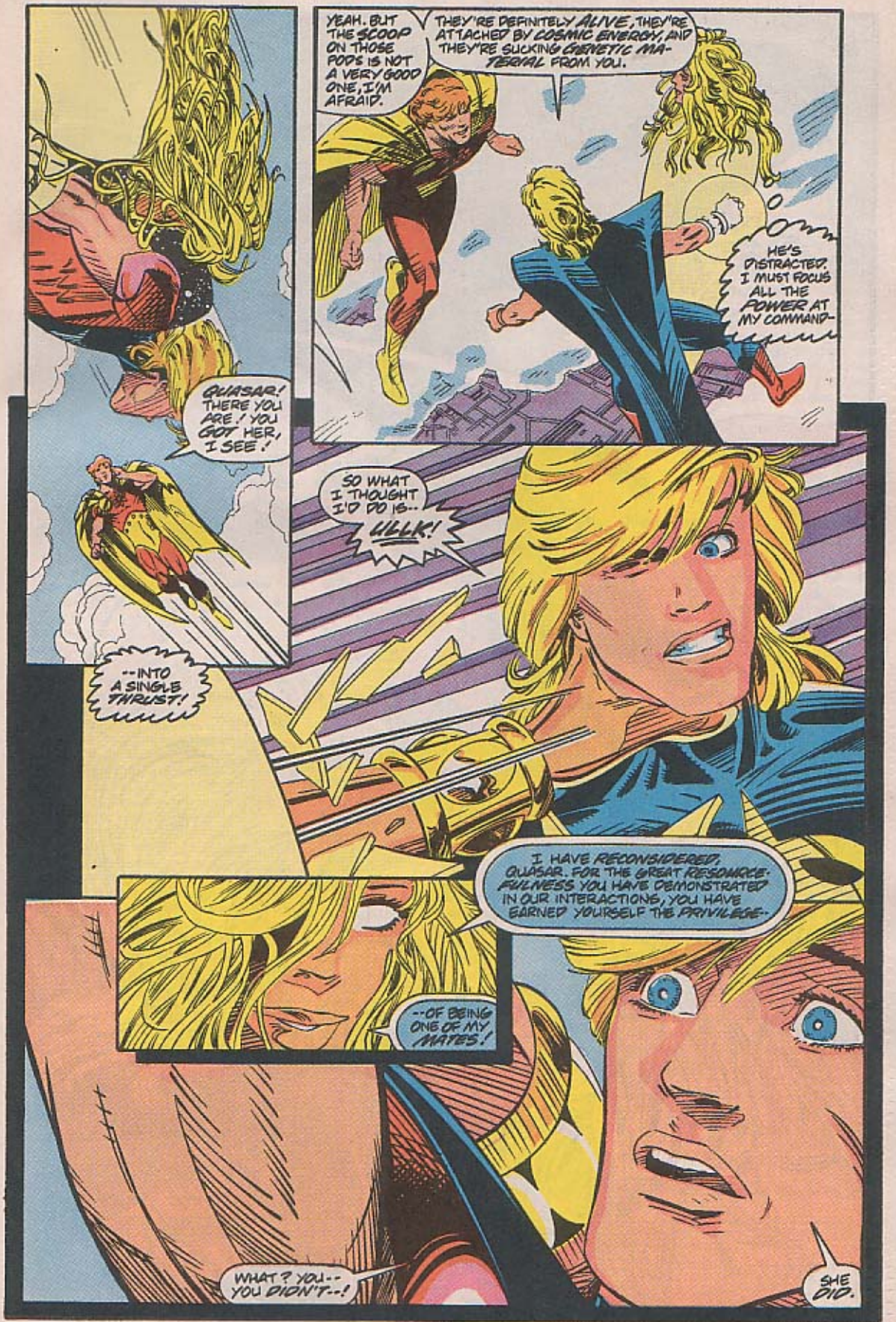
HOW *LONG* DO THEY REMAIN ATTACHED?

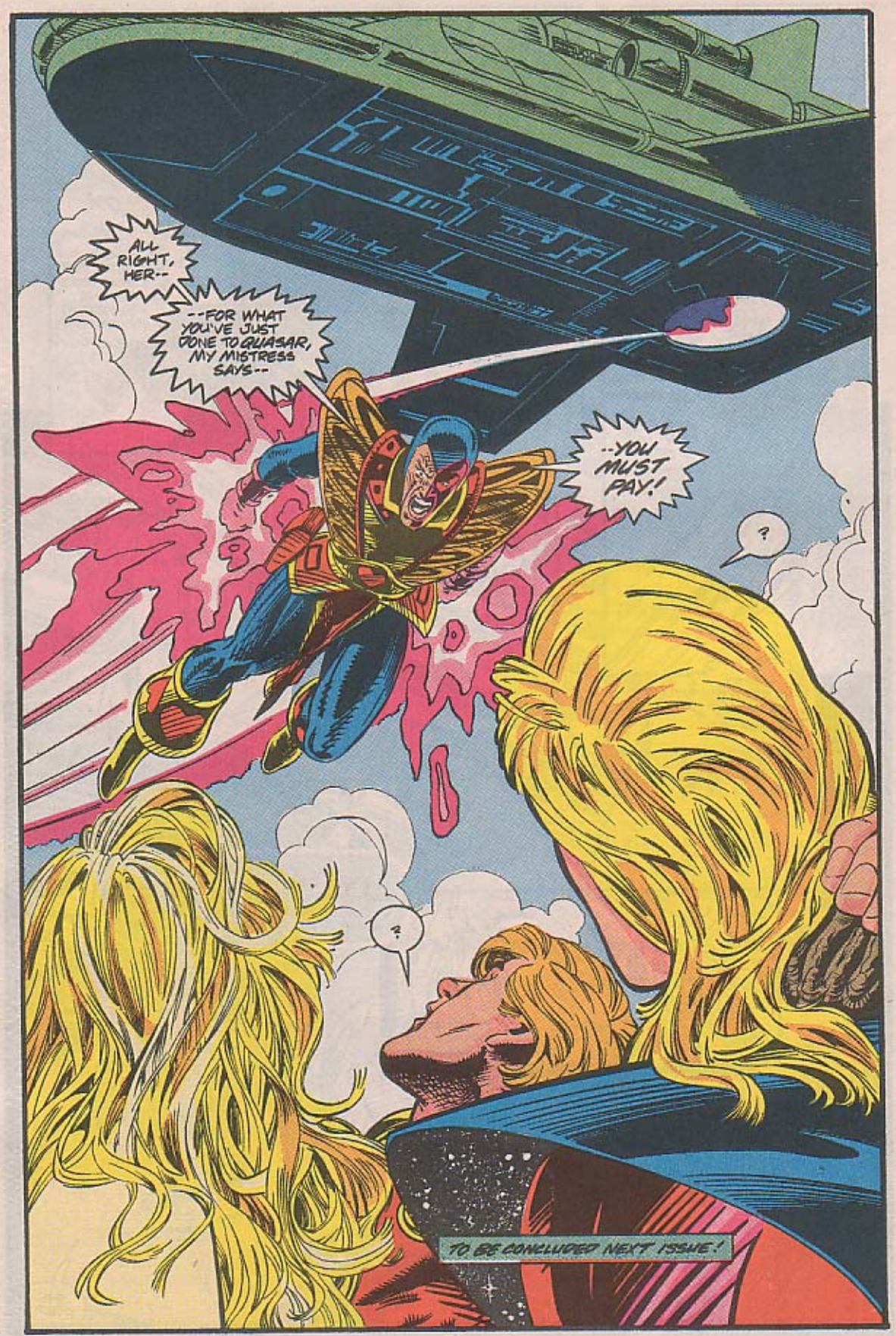
SEVERAL *MONTHS*, I WOULD IMAGINE. TILL THEY COME TO *TERM.*

WHEW. I DON'T LIKE THOSE ANSWERS, LADY.

YOU'RE COMING WITH ME BACK TO *AVENGERS HEADQUARTERS* AND YOU'RE GOING TO FIND SOME WAY TO *UNDO THE DAMAGE* YOU'VE DONE.

IT IS NOT DAMAGE, YOU FOOL--IT IS *CREATION.*


YEAH. BUT THE SCOOP ON THOSE PODS IS NOT A VERY GOOD ONE, I'M AFRAID.
THEY'RE DEFINITELY ALIVE, THEY'RE ATTACHED BY COSMIC ENERGY, AND THEY'RE SUCKING GENETIC MATERIAL FROM YOU.
HE'S DISTRACTED. I MUST FOCUS ALL THE POWER AT MY COMMAND-
QUASAR! THERE YOU ARE! YOU GOT HER, I SEE!
SO WHAT I THOUGHT I'D DO IS-- UHLK!
--INTO A SINGLE THRUST!
I HAVE RECONSIDERED, QUASAR. FOR THE GREAT RESOURCEFULNESS YOU HAVE DEMONSTRATED IN OUR INTERACTIONS, YOU HAVE EARNED YOURSELF THE PRIVILEGE-
--OF BEING ONE OF MY MATES!
WHAT? YOU-- YOU DIDN'T--!
SHE DID.


ALL RIGHT, HER--
--FOR WHAT YOU'VE JUST DONE TO QUASAR, MY MISTRESS SAYS--
--YOU MUST PAY!
?
?
TO BE CONCLUDED NEXT ISSUE!

STELLARGRAMS

Attention correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

KELLY CORVESE: EDITOR

Dear Mark,

Hey, this stuff is getting intense. I could kick myself for not recognizing Maelstrom as the cosmic threat (as I look back there were lots of clues, the most obvious being Malcolm Stromberg's very name) but I guess if I knew everything in advance it'd be no fun.

Quasar has certainly been laid low. After a redeeming solution to the Watcher suicide epidemic, he's seen his dad die, broke off with Kayla, resigned as Eon's protector, and now has had his hands cut off! And now you say the worst is yet to come. . .! I have no idea how you're going to get him (and the universe) out of this mess, but I do sense a huge upheaval coming at the end of this story, far beyond the costume change of a couple issues ago. When this is all over, Eon will no longer need a protector (either he or Maelstrom will be dead, and my money's on Maelstrom) and Quasar (if he's still alive) will need a new purpose. He seems overqualified for his old Project: Pegasus job now. Maybe now would be a good time to plan a series of space adventures taking Quasar on a tour of the cosmos, with stops like the Negative Zone, the Shiar Empire, the Kree Galaxy, etc. Well, anyway, it's a thought.

And here's another one. You asked about ideas to boost QUASAR's sales, and I've been thinking that one over for a while. It's tough; there are only so many things you can do to alter a book without completely undermining its basic premise and when you rule out three big options like you did (and I'm glad you did) the list is even smaller. Let's see. . .you've changed the costume, that won't do it. The creative team you've got is perfect, so you don't want to break up a good combination. You could move to a New Format, but that would necessarily bring with it a corresponding price hike and that doesn't seem likely to attract new fans. I don't know. To tell the truth, if the choice comes down to "selling out," i.e. making Quasar some kind of vengeance-seeking, butt-kickin' space vigilante or staying the course and maybe losing the book, I have to admit I'll take the latter. At least that approach will allow you to maintain your dignity. I'd much rather have thirty solid issues of QUASAR, the real QUASAR, than 100 of "Quasar-lite" or any kind of depiction that radically changes a character I think is fine to begin with. The marketplace is so hard to understand; I can't believe a book like this doesn't sell better. Well, maybe I can. Subtlety doesn't seem to sell; people want things right in front of them, one-dimensional, easy.

Here's the closest thing to a good idea that I can come up with, and it ties in with my earlier suggestion about having Quasar go on a tour of the Marvel Universe. Maybe you could use Quasar as a kind of tool to answer long unaddressed questions about the Marvel Universe, making Quasar the unofficial cartographer of the Marvel Universe. You'd have to have some kind of motivation for him to do this; a grand quest of some kind, or perhaps a new appointment by one of the other elders, something like that.

Hope you hit a lucky streak real soon.

Michael J. Miller
513 Monroe St.
Hanover, IL 61041

With any luck, we're riding it, Michael. Thanks for writing!

To Mark Gruenwald and Howard Mackie,

Well, after reading issue #21, I thought I would share the opinions of one reader on the recent storyline.

What I don't like:

His costume. The first couple of issues that he was in in his new costume I did a double-take and remembered "Oh yeah, he's changed his costume." Even though he is the new protector of the universe, he doesn't have to look like a second rate Captain Marvel. That costume is a more dramatic example that Wendell Vaughn is competing with the memory of Mar-Vell. Quasar's original costume was a variant on the old Marvel Boy costume, but in modern times Marvel Boy only appeared in one or two issues of the Fantastic four before dying and to me the costume is more a symbol of Quasar than of that old '50s character. Please bring back his old costume, or one of his old costumes.

You cut off his hands! YAAH! Gross! If you wanted to shock the reader, you did a great job. But if Quasar is powerful enough to pound a Watcher then why can't he overpower Maelstrom's ability over kinetic energy? Does this mean that Maelstrom is more powerful than a Watcher? Hmmm. . .

What is this between Makkari and Kayla? That happened rather suddenly. Hopefully the future will show whether this is a budding romance or a misunderstanding.

What I do like:

The character Wendell Vaughn. He's doing the best he can in the real world. At least a world as real as one with super heroes can get. I've always liked characters that don't have all the answers. I hope, though, that he will become more confident after all this "Cosmos in Collision" stuff is over because the self-doubt that he's had since issue #1 is wearing thin. Let's see him handle an extreme crisis situation with a cool head and correct actions. Life isn't all unhappiness and pain nor is it joy and laughter, but an interplay of all of those. I hope Quasar has self-doubt during the difficult and unsure times and success when he's, say, on a date.

Wendell Vaughn telling everyone he is Quasar. I'm surprised more super heroes haven't told their close friends and family about their longjohn hobby. There are people in my life that I respect enough to feel really lousy about myself if I wasn't completely honest with them.

Ms. Steckley is most likely Moondragon. "Quasar — my love. . .?" Yow! The Moondragon of old was hardly one to love anyone. I hope after all the action is over you do an issue with just character development where we can see just who these people are hanging around with Wendell.

Maelstrom did not flash into costume. When you're playing high stakes poker, no one cares if you are wearing cotton or polyester. This is also one of the things I liked about DP7. There were no contrived excuses for changing into a colorful outfit. If Peter Parker saw a kid falling from a building would he stop to first put on his costume? I hope not.

That's all. Hope the sales pick up without having to resort to mutants.

Bill Mallory
P.O. Box 1541
Idyllwild, CA 92349

Did the X-Men cameo this issue hurt our credibility, Bill?

Dear Gru & Co.,

Ohhh, that last page was intense! And more than a bit grotesque. Was it absolutely necessary to kill our hero? Fortunately, since nearly every dead Marvel villain is coming back to life these days (Red Skull, Thanos, Venom), hopefully Quasar can find a way to do the same.

Apart from the bummer last page, QUASAR #21 was excellent, as cosmic a book as I'd hoped it would be. The funny thing is, I'd nearly dropped the book before this "Cosmos in Collision" storyline started; I didn't think the comic (except the first two excellent issues) had been living up to its potential. Thanks for proving me wrong.

The mysteries and complications in this book have me on edge. Why on earth, for example, did H.D. call Quaze "my love?" At least you gave us some answers, but just having Deathurge pop up makes me remember how much I'm looking forward to seeing his and Quasar's next meeting. And Death's role in this saga (end of #18) has got me more than slightly curious.

Being a big DP7 fan (hopefully we'll see more cameos, like back in the Aquarian issue), I know you can do more with your supporting cast than you have so far. Just because some of them don't have superpowers doesn't mean they aren't worth writing about. My favorite part of Marvel has always been how super heroes and supervillains interact with the "real" world (you see why I loved DP7 so much), so let's see more of Ken and Kayla and, well, I would've said Wendell's dad, but. . .

J. Adam Montgomery
5108 Fontana
Roeland Park, KS 66205

More of everything you like is on the way, J. Promise!

David R. Sutton Hackettstown, NJ	Dennis Morris, 32 Oakland, CA	Austin Kearsley, 5 Concord, CA	Steve Kearsley, 32 Concord, CA	Brian Hamer, 20 Milpitas, CA
Rickie Ripper, 26 Sacramento, CA	Gregory Sweeney, 12 Daly City, CA	Shannon Z. Gates, 26 Oakland, CA	Ignacio Ramirez, 40 Hayward, CA	Nancy Toscanim, 36 San Francisco, CA
Joan Toscanini San Francisco, CA	David Marcucci, 15 Vallejo, CA	Derick Migares, 14 Percales, CA	Bobbie Querol, 14 Vallejo, CA	Corey Spencer, 16 Hayward, CA